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30. — *The Law of Freedom and Bondage in the United States.* By JOHN CODMAN HURD, Counsellor at Law. In Two Volumes. Vol. II. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1862. 8vo. pp. 800.

MR. HURD has completed in this volume a work which must take its place as the standard authority in the branch of municipal law to which it relates. It is strictly a legal work, committed to no theory, designed to sustain no individual phasis of opinion, but comprising an outline of the entire legislation, constitutional and statutory, of the general government and the individual States on the subject of slavery, with an analysis and criticism of all the legal decisions and judicial dicta growing out of such legislation. We have the promise, which we trust will be redeemed at an early period, of a review of the work by an accomplished legal scholar.

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31. — *The Works of WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. The Plays Edited from the Folio of MDCXXIII., with Various Readings from all the Editions and all the Commentators, Notes, Introductory Remarks, a Historical Sketch of the Text, an Account of the Rise and Progress of the English Drama, a Memoir of the Poet, and an Essay upon his Genius.* By RICHARD GRANT WHITE. Volumes IX. — XII. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1861. Small 8vo. pp. 443, 535, 511, 487.

WE need barely refer our readers to our review and repeated notices of the earlier volumes of this edition. It leaves nothing to be desired, whether in the thorough and careful editing of the text, the mass and quality of critical, historical, and biographical matter, or the mechanical execution. Of all American editions, it must hold not only the first place, but in many important particulars a place unshared and unapproached.

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32. — *Practical Christianity. A Treatise specially designed for Young Men.* By JOHN S. C. ABBOTT, Author of "The Mother at Home," "The Child at Home," "Life of Napoleon," "History of the French Revolution," &c. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1862. 16mo. pp. 302.

WE are not a little curious to know whether the conception of this work originated with the publishers or with the author. It reads like a book made to order, with reference to the actual or supposed condition of the book-market. It disappointed us grievously; for we had

our notions, too, of what the times demanded, and should have rejoiced to see a vigorous, earnest plea for religion based on the momentous crisis of our public affairs, and on the modification which it has wrought so extensively in the entire present and future of Young America. Religion, indeed, is always the same, always supreme and queenly in its claims; but there are times when Providence utters voices loud and solemn as those of the last trumpet, and, if there ever was such a season, this is one. But commonplaces, however grave, can hardly arrest attention at such an epoch; and this book is made up of commonplaces, of familiar anecdotes and extracts, of the staple materials of Sunday-school addresses and Conference-meeting speeches, good in their place if they had a little more unction and fervor, but too feeble and prosy for the stirring and renovating mission announced in the title-page. The method of the Abbott brothers has, we admit, great merits in some branches of didactic literature. Its perspicuity, its affluence of illustration, and its simplicity of style, leave no lurking-place for ambiguity, no room for misapprehension. In biography, history, and all departments of elementary knowledge, it wins the attention and sustains the interest of the young, and approaches nearer the voice of the living instructor than any other mode of book-teaching with which we are conversant. But there are some subjects which are belittled by the attempt to write down to the readers, and religion is one of those subjects. The aim of the religious teacher should be to draw out and to draw up to his theme the receptive, emotional, and active powers of his hearers and readers. A clear and adequate conception is often of much less worth than a mighty impulse. The impulse given, the conception will gradually take shape, yet not perfect shape, but dimensions which shall more and more grow into symmetry with the growth of the soul, to be completed only in the higher life. The great subjects of Christian faith and hope, if too soon and too readily comprehended, are liable to be outgrown with the expansion of the intellect, and to hold an inferior place in the maturity of its powers; and we cannot but feel that there is this danger in the too familiar and anecdotal treatment of holy mysteries.

33.—*Christian Worship. Services for the Church, with Order of Vespers and Hymns.* New York: James Miller. 1862. 12mo. pp. 260, 108.

WE are sorry not to like this book; for it has been made by personal friends of ours, from whose taste and judgment we dissent with unfeigned reluctance, while, were it not so, we should deem ourselves